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62.	Prof. Sugata Bose	USA
63.	Prof. C.K. Prahalad	USA
64.	Mr. Inder Singh	USA
65.	Ms. Renu Khator	USA
66,.	Mr. Prakash M. Swamy	USA
67.	Mr. Ashook Ramsaran	USA
68.	Mr. Thomas Abraham	USA
69.	Dr. Sanku S. Rao	USA
70.	Dr. M. Anirudhan	USA
71.	Mr. Ashwin Patel	USA
72.	Justice A.M. Ebrahim	Zimbabwe

Racial attack in Melbourne

1593. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to an unfortunate incident of racist attack on Indian where a 22 year old Sikh was assaulted and his turban was also removed by a group of teenagers while he was sleeping in a bus stop near railway station in Epping in Melbourne, suburb that has seen a spate of racist attacks on Indians;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon; and

(c) the details of steps taken by Government to put an end to such attacks and the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The High Commissioner of India had specifically taken up the issue of this attack in Epping which took place on 12 September 2009 with the Premier of Victoria himself. The Premier had responded by reiterating that it was regrettable that incidents of violence were still occurring in Victoria and that he considered any act of racially motivated violence or racism as completely unacceptable.

As a result of a series of high-level discussions and demarches made by Indian Mission/Posts in Australia, the Australian Government has taken various steps. They have announced a series of measures, including stricter policing in Victoria and NSW, aimed at ensuring the safety and security of Indian students in Australia. These steps have been useful and the incidence of attacks have decreased.

Indian students in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore

1594. SHRI Y. P. TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Indian students in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore;

(b) that States from where the students go to these countries, each year;

(c) the total number of incidents like attacks, misbehaviors and discrimination against Indians in last one year;

(d) the steps taken by Government for security of Indian students after such incidents; and

(e) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) As per reports received from Indian Missions in these countries, there are about 1,21,000 Indian students in Australia and about 6,861 Indian students in New Zealand. Figures of the number of Indian students pursuing studies in Singapore is not available.

(b) Data regarding states from where students go to these countries is not available. However, in Australia the students are predominantly from Punjab, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Haryana.

(c) No reports of attacks misbehavior and discrimination against Indian students have been reported from New Zealand and Singapore. A total of 100 attacks on Indians, including students, have been reported from Australia during the last one year.

(d) and (e) The matter has been taken up at the highest level by our Prime Minister with the Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister of Australia during their visits to India. As a result of a series of high-level discussions and demarches made by Indian Mission/Posts in Australia, the Australian Government has taken various steps. They have announced a series of measures, including stricter policing in Victoria and NSW, aimed at ensuring the safety and security of Indian students in Australia. The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Ms. Julia Gillard introduced in the Parliament, a bill to amend the Education Services for Overseas Students Act, 2000, under which all educational institutions will now be required to re-register under new and tighter criteria by 31 December, 2010. Similarly rapid audit of service providers is being undertaken by the Australian authorities, as a result of which some colleges have already been de-registered and shut down. These steps have been useful and the incidence of attacks has decreased.

Attack on Indian students

†1595. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incidents of attacks on Indian students in foreign countries especially in Australia are increasing;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.